Interview invitation

Dear Student,

RE: RESEARCH PROJECT ENTITLED ‘ATTRACTING AND SUPPORTING CARE LEAVERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

A team of investigators at La Trobe University, Federation University Australia, Western Sydney University and the Queensland University of Technology are currently conducting a research project examining the experiences and achievements of university students who spent time in out-of-home care (e.g. foster care, residential care, kinship care, ward of the State) before they were 18. The research is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education.

As part of our research, we are asking students to participate in an interview. The interview will ask about your pathway to university, your experiences at university, and your plans for the future. It will include an emphasis on how you believe your experiences having spent time in out-of-home care differ from other students, and invites your recommendations on how higher education outcomes can be improved for people from an out-of-home care background. Before deciding to participate in the interview please make sure you feel comfortable talking about these topics.

Participation is voluntary and you will not suffer from any adverse consequences if you choose not to participate in the interview.

The interview would be conducted in person, via phone or on Skype at a mutually convenient time and location, and should not exceed 60 minutes. With your consent, the interview would be audio-recorded. Notes may also be taken by the interviewer.

Further details about the research project are included in the attached Participant Information Statement. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself, or one of the other investigators listed in the Participant Information Sheet.

If, having read the Participant Information Statement, you agree to participate in an interview, then please reply to this email and copy and paste the following information into the body of your e-mail, underlining yes or no to agreeing to be audio recorded, and whether you consent to be contacted for future related projects.

PLEASE COPY TEXT BELOW:

I (the participant’s full name will be entered here) confirm that:

- I am aged over 18 years.
- I have read (or, where appropriate, have had read to me) the Participant Information Statement and the Consent Form, and the nature and purpose of the research project have been explained to me.
- I understand the purpose of the research project and my involvement in it. Any questions I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction.
• I understand my participation is voluntary and that I may not directly benefit from taking part in the project.
• I agree to take part by participating in an interview.
• I understand that I may withdraw from the research project at any stage prior to 4 weeks following the date of my interview and that doing so will not affect my status now or in the future.
• I understand that all materials relating to my participation in the project will be stored in a locked filing cabinet and/or password protected file server at Federation University Australia, and that only the researchers will have access to these materials.
• I understand that, after five years following completion of the study, all materials relating to my participation in the project will be destroyed.
• I understand that information gained during the study may be presented at seminars and conferences and/or published in reports and academic articles.
• I understand that emailing this response provides an electronic signature of my approval of the information provided in this email.

I consent to the interview being audio recorded. YES / NO

(please underline)

I consent to being contacted for future related projects. YES / NO

(please underline)

Kind regards,

Ms. Pearl Goodwin-Burns
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